

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Lawrence House Inventory Number: BA-3275
Address: 12265 Harford Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Glen Arm Zip Code: 21057 County: Baltimore County
USGS Quadrangle(s): White Marsh
Property Owner: William S. and Janis K. Seegar Tax Account ID Number: 1102004010
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 319 Tax Map Number: 54
Project: MD 147 at Glen Arm Road and Mt. Vista Road (BA465A21) Agency: SHA
Agency Prepared By: EHT Tracerics, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Emma Waterloo Date Prepared: 6/22/2012
Documentation is presented in: DOE form
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Lawrence House is located on the south side of Harford Road (MD 147), approximately 175 feet west of the intersection of Harford, Glen Arm, and Mt. Vista roads. The residence is set back roughly 40 feet from the Harford Road right-of-way, on a heavily wooded lot. It is accessed via a gravel driveway located at the northeast corner of the lot that extends southwest from Harford Road to the northeast corner of the residence. A curved brick path connects the gravel driveway with the primary entrance, located on the east façade. A modern electric lamppost marks the juncture of the brick path and driveway. Landscaping is located in the immediate vicinity of the residence, and includes shrubs and foundation plantings. Shrubs and trees of varying ages dot the west (rear) yard. A small barn is located southeast of the residence.

Residence

This two-story, frame residence was influenced by both the Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival styles. It has an L-plan, and is capped by a complex, cross-gable roof. It is divided into three sections: the southern I-house section, the northern Gothic Revival-style section, and the western Colonial Revival-style addition. It appears that the I-house section was the initial dwelling

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

Jim DeLorenzo
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Kintz
Reviewer, National Register Program

8/21/2012
Date

8/24/12
Date

constructed ca. 1854, and that the Gothic Revival-style section fronting Harford Road was constructed ca. 1887. The Colonial Revival-style addition was likely the last section of the residence constructed ca. 1904.

The residence has a parged foundation, and is capped by an asphalt-shingled roof. An exterior-end, stretcher-bond brick chimney with a corbeled cap is located on the east gable-end elevation of the Gothic Revival-style section. Two interior, stretcher-bond brick chimneys are located in the I-house section, and one interior, stretcher-bond brick chimney is located in the Colonial Revival-style addition. The building is clad entirely in vinyl siding, obscuring all visible evidence of construction phases within the sections. Windows throughout are typically 2/2 vinyl sash, set in plain, square surrounds of vinyl, and flanked by decorative, inoperable shutters.

The east (primary) façade of the I-house is three bays wide. Moving from south to north across the façade on the first story are a window, the primary entrance, and a window. The primary entrance is comprised of a single-leaf, paneled door set within a simple, square vinyl surround, and flanked by inoperable shutters. The first story of the I-house is sheltered by a hipped-roof porch that wraps around to the south elevation. The porch roof is supported by four Tuscan columns. The porch is accessed by two brick steps. Three windows are spaced across the second story of the I-house. It is capped by a side-gable roof.

The south (side) elevation of the I-house is one bay wide. A window is centered on both the first and second stories. The first story is shaded by the wrap-around porch. A wood 2/2 semicircular-arched window surrounded by a variety of jig-sawed wood shingles is located above the cornice line in the gable end. The different shingles include square, fish-scale, and saw-tooth. The west (rear) elevation of the I-house is obscured by the Colonial Revival-style addition. The north (side) elevation of the I-house is appended to the north (rear) elevation of the Gothic Revival-style section.

The east (side) elevation of the Gothic Revival-style section is two bays wide. The bays are divided by an exterior-end brick chimney. Two windows flank the chimney on both the first and second stories. A variety of jig-sawed wood shingles is located above the cornice in the gable end. The south (rear) elevation of the Gothic Revival-style section is appended to the north (side) elevation of the I-house section. The west (side) elevation is two bays wide. Two windows are symmetrically located on both the first and second stories. The elevation is capped by an end-gable roof. A wood 2/2 semicircular-arched window is set into the end gable, and is surrounded by jig-sawed wood shingles.

The north (façade) elevation of the Gothic Revival-style section is five bays wide, and features a full-width, enclosed porch on the first story. Moving east to west across the first story are a 2/2 vinyl window, two paired 1/1 vinyl windows, and a 2/2 vinyl window. Five windows are spaced across the second story. A steeply pitched, cross gable is centered on the roof. A wood 2/2 semicircular-arched window flanked by decorative, inoperable shutters is located in the cross gable.

The south (side) elevation of the Colonial Revival-style addition is one bay wide, and is capped by a shed roof that slopes down to the west. The porch on the first story has been enclosed with vinyl siding and a 1/1 vinyl-sash window. Two windows are located on the second story of the addition. The north (side) elevation of the Colonial Revival-style addition is appended to the south elevation of the Gothic Revival-style section. The east (rear) elevation of the addition is appended to the west elevation of the I-house.

The west elevation of the addition is three bays wide. Moving from south to north across the first story are a false divided-light bay window, a secondary entrance, and two windows. The secondary entrance and the two windows immediately to its north are sheltered by a shed-roof porch. The porch is accessed by two wood steps, and the porch roof is supported by wood posts. Four windows are spaced across the second story of the west elevation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
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Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

BA-3275

Lawrence House

Page 3

Barn

Constructed ca. 1947, a single-story, frame barn is located southeast of the residence. The rectangular-plan building sits on a concrete slab foundation, and is clad in painted particleboard. The side-gable standing-seam metal roof features exposed rafter tails. The north (primary) façade has a centrally located pedestrian entrance flanked by two square windows. The entrance is comprised of a four-paneled wood door hung on strap hinges. The windows openings lack sash, and are protected by metal security bars. The east and west elevations have paired garage bay openings protected by metal security bars. The south elevation has a square window opening without sash, protected by metal security bars.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Lawrence House was initially part of a tract of land known in the eighteenth century as "Hill's Forest," situated in the fork of the Gunpowder River in Baltimore County. Hill's Forest was originally acquired by the Hill family, who were prominent, early settlers of the area. The land was subdivided, transferred, and eventually sold to George Buchanan. Buchanan sold 631 acres to his son-in-law, James Gittings, ca. 1780. (1) The Gittings family had been one of the first families to settle in the area around Hill's Forrest in the late seventeenth century. James Gittings seems to have transferred the Hill's Forest property to his son, Thomas. (2) In 1836, and again in 1838, Thomas E. Gittings and his wife, Julia, sold substantial portions of the Hill's Forest tract to Jesse Garrett, who developed it as Beachmont Farm (BA-530). (3) Thirteen years later in 1851, the Gittings conveyed a separate, 106-acre parcel of the Hill's Forrest tract, located north of the Beachmont Farm tract, to Lennox Birkhead and his wife, Adaminna (also noted as Adrianna), who was born in Denmark. (4) Lennox Birkhead was a physician, and his household included a nurse, a cook, a chambermaid, and two slaves in addition to five children and a grandchild. (5)

According to the 1857 Baltimore County Wall Map and the 1857 Baltimore County Wall Map with Inserts, Lennox Birkhead constructed the main residence on the property, which was deeply set back from Harford Road. (6) However, one of the maps also notes a residence located at the southwest corner of Harford and Mt. Vista roads, at the present location of the Lawrence House. (7) This is likely the I-house section of the Lawrence House, which may have served as an ancillary dwelling to Dr. Birkhead's main residence. Even though Dr. Birkhead was a physician by trade, it is likely that he farmed at least a portion of the 106 acres, since it was prime agricultural land. In this capacity, the I-house section may have served as a tenant's or overseer's house. The building reflects mid-nineteenth-century construction, and it appears to have been noted on Robert Taylor's Baltimore County Wall Map with Inserts from 1857. However, the I-house building is not documented on any other historic maps until the mid-twentieth century, further suggesting it may have been a secondary dwelling on the larger estate with which it was associated until 1904.

Dr. Birkhead held the property for three years before selling the land and improvements to Daniel H. Lawrence in 1854. (8) According to the 1850 census, Lawrence was also a physician. He was married, had five children, an Irish housemaid, and two slaves. (9) Dr. Lawrence owned the property until his death, ca. 1890. Lawrence's will was contested in the Circuit Court of Baltimore County, and the court appointed two of his sons, J. Mabury T. and Thomas R. Lawrence, as trustees to sell the property. The trustees sold the property to their older brother, John M. Lawrence, in September 1891. (10) John M. Lawrence then sold a half-share interest in the property back to Thomas R. Lawrence. (11)

John M. Lawrence was born ca. 1842 in Maryland, and married a woman named Sarah, who was 15 years his junior. As of the 1880 census, the couple had a daughter named Harriet, and was living with John's mother, Susan, his brother, Thomas, and a boarder named Haney James. The census lists John M. Lawrence's occupation as a farmer. (12) It is likely that the I-house section at 12265 Harford Road was expanded by the addition of the Gothic Revival-style section around the time of the death of Dr. Daniel H. Lawrence, thus accommodating his son's growing family. Moreover, the enlarged structure was reoriented to front Harford Road, rather than the agricultural fields the I-house section viewed. The new section of the house was more stylistically

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fashionable, reflecting the then-popular Gothic Revival style, and thus, the wealth of the Lawrence family. This significant addition coincides with Maryland property records documentation of the construction date as 1887. (13)

In January 1898, John and Thomas Lawrence sold both of their shares of the property to Sophia Stewart. (14) Ms. Stewart was independently wealthy due to the death of her first husband, who had been the proprietor of a store on Harford Road near the village of Carney. She married her second husband in 1894, but divorced him for abuse three years later. (15) After her divorce, Sophia Stewart used her own money to purchase the full 106 acres from John and Thomas Lawrence. (16) The real estate transaction between Sophia Stewart and John M. Lawrence does not appear to have been amicable, since Lawrence took Stewart to court two years later. However, there was not sufficient evidence for the case to move forward. (17) Soon thereafter, Stewart began selling or giving away small parcels of her property, beginning with 10 acres to Alfred D. Bernard, a Baltimore-area lawyer. (28) In 1904, Stewart sold five acres of land on the south side of the Harford turnpike to Joseph and Mary Pace for \$3,500. (19) This presumably included the residence at 12265 Harford Road.

Joseph and Mary Pace were married in 1895, and Joseph Pace worked as a general store keeper. (20) Because of its form, the arrangement and type of the fenestration, and the design of the western chimney, it is likely that the couple added the Colonial Revival-style addition during the early-twentieth century. Following the death of Joseph in 1923, Mary Pace continued to live at 12265 Harford Road until she sold the property to Harry and Florence Russell in 1927. (21) Harry W. Russell was born ca. 1883, and worked as a grocer. At the time of the 1930 census, the Russells had a daughter and two sons, one of whom was working in the family business. (22) Sometime after 1930, Florence Russell passed away, and Harry Russell married Lillian C. Russell. (23) The Russells held the property until 1947, when they sold it to Charles and Mary Evans. (24)

After Charles and Mary Evans acquired the property in 1947, the property changed hands every three to six years until 1963, when Joseph and Minnie Bayer bought the house. (25) The Bayers lived in the residence for 16 years before selling it to Francis A. Pommett, Jr., and his wife Roberta in 1979. (26) A classified advertisement for the property in the Baltimore Sun from 1981 notes that the house has graciously sized rooms, including a family room with a fireplace, and three attic playrooms for children. The advertisement also documents that the residence had been modernized. (27) The property changed hands twice between 1979 and 1983, when William Seegar acquired the residence. (28) As of 2012, William and Janis Seegar are the present owners of the Lawrence House. (29)

EVALUATION

Although the Lawrence House retains integrity of design and location, it lacks integrity of materials, workmanship, setting, association, and feeling. The residence has had replacement materials installed on nearly every surface, including replacement siding, windows, shutters, and roofing. In the instance of the I-house section, the replacement materials have erased the mid-nineteenth-century workmanship, thereby creating the effect of new construction. Moreover, the continuity of the replacement materials around the entire residence obscures the change in workmanship between the different construction phases. The property on which the residence sits has been subdivided from its original parcel, which has compromised its integrity of setting, feeling, and association as a secondary dwelling on a larger estate.

The period of development for the Lawrence House is from 1854 to 1904, which encompasses the earliest approximate construction date for the I-house section to the final Colonial Revival-style addition. Research was unable establish a connection between the Lawrence House and a specific historical event; therefore, it is not eligible under Criterion A. Further, research was unable to establish a significant connection to any historically important individual, disqualifying the residence from eligibility under Criterion B. The Lawrence House retains integrity of design and location, but lacks integrity of materials, workmanship, setting, association, and feeling. The residence lacks the architectural distinction necessary to distinguish it from other examples of

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

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Date

the Colonial Revival or Gothic Revival styles. Since the residence represents several different styles from multiple building campaigns, it has the potential to be useful for the study of the evolution of architectural styles and construction methods. However, application of new materials, including replacement windows, cladding, and roofing has compromised its workmanship, and its ability to convey the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The foundation of the residence has been parged in concrete, which further conceals the building's evolution. The interior was not accessible, and it is not known if the evolution of the house is more discernible within. However, substantial alterations would have been made to once-exterior walls as the three structures were united. The 1981 classified ad noting that the interior has been "beautifully modernized" also indicates that the interior is no longer intact. (30) Therefore, the residence is not eligible under Criterion C. The Lawrence House is not considered to be a significant source of history or prehistory. However, it was not evaluated for its archaeological potential under Criterion D.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Situated at the southwest corner of the intersection of Harford (MD 147), Glen Arm, and Mt. Vista roads, the Lawrence House is located in the unincorporated community of Glen Arm in Baltimore County, Maryland. The house and barn are situated on 2.21 acres of land. It is bound to the north by Harford Road, to the south by woodland, to the east by the Beachmont Christian Camp, and to the west by private development. The boundaries for the residence coincide with the tax parcel on which the residence is located, since it has not been associated with the historic 106-acre parcel since 1904. The residence was surveyed in connection with the Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) proposal to construct a roundabout with accompanying infrastructure at the intersection of Harford, Glen Arm, and Mt. Vista roads.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Proffatt, John, *The American Decisions: Cases of General Value and Authority Decided in the Courts of the Several States from the Earliest Issue of the State Reports to the year 1869*, Vol. 2, San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Company, 1910, 503.
- (2) Wollon, James T., Jr., "The Homestead," Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, BA-386, On file with the Maryland Historical Trust.
- (3) Deed of Sale from Thomas E. Gittings to Jesse Garrett, November 7, 1836, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 264, folio 490, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland; Deed of Sale from Thomas E. Gittings to Jesse Garrett, June 15, 1838, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 304, folio 226, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (4) Deed of Sale from Thomas E. Gittings and wife to Lennox Birkhead, April 18, 1851, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 457, folio 1128, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (5) 1860 United States Census (Schedule 1), District 1, Howard, Maryland, page 54, dwelling 406, family 395, lines 22-34, November 3, 1860, Family History Library Film: 803477.
- (6) Taylor, Robert, Baltimore County Wall Map, 1857; Taylor, Robert, Baltimore County Wall Map with Inserts, 1857.
- (7) Taylor, Robert, Baltimore County Wall Map with Inserts, 1857.
- (8) Deed of Sale from Lennox Birkhead and wife to Daniel H. Lawrence, September 26, 1854, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 9, folio 325, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (9) 1850 United States Census (Schedule 1), Baltimore Ward 2, Baltimore, Maryland, page 283B, dwelling 1446, family 1833, lines 37-42, page 284A, lines 1-4, July 29, 1850, National Archives Microfilm: M432-281.
- (10) Deed of Sale from J. Mabury T. Lawrence, et al, Trustees to John M. Lawrence, September 29, 1891, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 188, folio 236, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (11) Deed of Sale from John M. Lawrence to Thomas R. Lawrence, September 29, 1981, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 188, folio 238, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

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Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

BA-3275

Lawrence House

Page 6

- (12) 1880 United States Census (Schedule 1), District 11, Baltimore Maryland, page 405, dwelling 245, family 249, lines 7-12, June 12, 1880, Family History Film: 1254496.
- (13) Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, Real Property Data, Baltimore County, District 11, Account Number 1102004010, June 1, 2012 (accessed June 14, 2012), available at <http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/>.
- (14) Deed of Sale from John M. Lawrence and wife, and Thomas R. Lawrence and wife to Sophia Stewart, January 17, 1898, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 229, folio 575, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (15) "Mrs. Sophia Stewart Sues her Husband, T.R. Stewart, for Divorce," The Baltimore Sun, January 16, 1897, 7.
- (16) Deed of Sale from John M. Lawrence and wife, and Thomas R. Lawrence and wife to Sophia Stewart, January 17, 1898, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 229, folio 575, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (17) "Circuit Court for Baltimore County: Judge Burke," The Baltimore Sun, March 17, 1900, 10.
- (18) "Real Estate Transfers: Baltimore County," The Baltimore Sun, February 16, 1901, 11.
- (19) "Real Estate Transfers: Baltimore County," The Baltimore Sun, November 26, 1904, 10.
- (20) 1910 United States Census, Election District 9, Baltimore, Maryland, page 6A, dwelling 99, family 104, lines 32-33, April 23, 1910, Family History Film: 1374564.
- (21) Deed of Sale from Mary Adele Pace (widow) to Harry W. Russell and wife, November 1, 1927, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 650, folio 427, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (22) 1930 United States Census, Election District 11, Baltimore, Maryland, page 16A, dwelling 358, family 368, lines 32-37, April 24, 1910, Family History Film: 2340581.
- (23) Deed of Sale from Mary Adele Pace (widow) to Harry W. Russell and wife, November 1, 1927, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 650, folio 427, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (24) Deed of Sale from Harry W. Russell and wife to Charles R. Evans and wife, July 30, 1947, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 1589, folio 74, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (25) Deed of Sale from Helen Clark Fullmer, Christine Miers Fullmer, and William Guy Fullmer to Joseph F. Bayer and Minnie P. Bayer, July 12, 1963, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 4170, folio 258, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (26) Deed of Sale from Joseph F. Bayer and Minnie P. Bayer to Francis A. Pommett Jr., and Roberta F. Pommett, December 10, 1979, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 6166, folio 374, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (27) "Classified Ad 44," The Baltimore Sun, September 13, 1981, Y2.
- (28) Deed of Sale from Francis A. Pommett, Jr. and Roberta F. French to William Slick Seegar and Donna Odell Beck Seegar, August 4, 1983, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 6574, folio 492, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (29) Deed of Sale from William Slick Seegar to William Slick Seegar and Janis K. Seegar, January 29, 1993, Baltimore County, Maryland, Liber 9582, folio 537, Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson, Maryland.
- (30) "Classified Ad 44," The Baltimore Sun, September 13, 1981, Y2.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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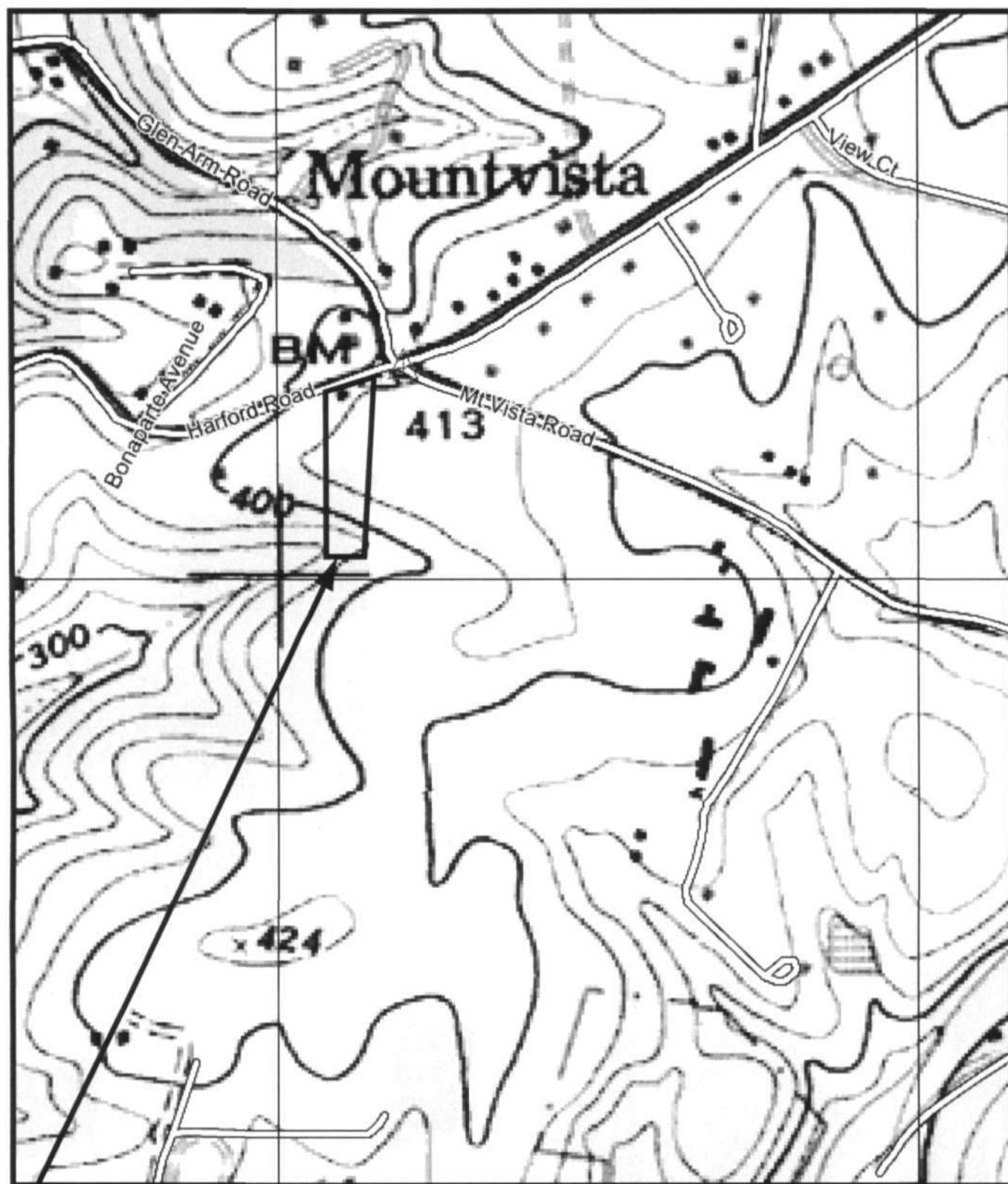
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Lawrence House
BA-3275
12265 Harford Road
Glen Arm, Baltimore County, Maryland, 21057
Map Courtesy of Baltimore County Office of Information Technology
Prepared by EHT Tracerics, 2012





Lawrence House (BA-3275)

Baltimore County, MD

White Marsh, USGS Topographic Map, 1949, Revised 1986

EHT Traceries, 2012





BAF3275

LAWRENCE HOUSE

1245 HARFORD ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

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MDSHP0

FACADE, LOOKING NORTH

*1 OF 2



BA-3275

LAWRENCE HOUSE

12265 HANFORD ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACES

6/2012

MD SHPO

REDUCE ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

#2 OF 2